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catheter which are farthest from the area to be catheterized as the catheter is used to catheterize a patient.

In the Claims:

Please amend the following claims to read as follows:

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1. (Amended) A method for inserting a multi-lumen catheter assembly into an area to be catheterized, the multi-lumen catheter assembly having (a) a multi-lumen catheter tube having a distal portion and a proximal portion, and (b) an attachable hub assembly having a hub body with a distal portion and a proximal portion, the method comprising the steps of:
making an incision near the area to be catheterized;
inserting the proximal portion of the multi-lumen catheter tube into the area to be catheterized;
creating a subcutaneous tunnel having a first end and a second end, wherein a first end of the subcutaneous tunnel is near the incision near the area to be catheterized;
routing the distal portion of the catheter tube through the subcutaneous tunnel beginning at the first end and exiting through the second end of the subcutaneous tunnel;
and
attaching the proximal portion of the hub body to the distal portion of the catheter tube.

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7. (Amended) A method for inserting a multi-lumen catheter assembly into an area to be catheterized, wherein the multi-lumen catheter assembly is comprised of (a) a multi-lumen catheter tube with a distal portion and a proximal portion, the catheter tube having at least a first lumen and a second lumen, (b) an attachable hub assembly, the hub assembly having a (i) a hub body with a distal portion and a proximal portion, the proximal portion of the hub body being externally threaded, the hub body being formed about a first cannula and a second cannula, each of the cannula having a proximal portion and a distal portion, (ii) a connection cover having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the connection cover fitting axially about the distal portion of the catheter tube, the distal portion of the connection cover being internally threaded, and (iii) a compression sleeve, the compression sleeve fitting axially about the distal portion of the catheter tube and the proximal portions of the first and second cannulae, the method

comprising the steps of:

making an incision near the area to be catheterized;

inserting the proximal portion of the multi-lumen catheter tube into the area to be catheterized;

creating a subcutaneous tunnel having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the subcutaneous tunnel is near the incision near the area to be catheterized;

routing the distal portion of the catheter tube through the subcutaneous tunnel beginning at the first end and exiting through the second end of the subcutaneous tunnel;

attaching the proximal portion of the hub body to the distal portion of the catheter tube,

wherein the step of attaching the hub body to the catheter tube is further comprised of the steps of:

a³ backfitting the connection cover over the distal portion of the catheter tube;

backfitting the compression sleeve over the distal portion of the catheter tube;

inserting the proximal portion of the first cannula into the first lumen of the distal portion of the catheter tube, and inserting the proximal portion of the second cannula into the second lumen of the distal portion of the catheter tube, to create fluid communication between the first cannula and the first lumen and the second cannula and the second lumen;

compressing the connection between the first and second cannulae and the first and second lumens of the catheter tube by sliding the compression sleeve over the proximal portion of the first and second cannulae that have been inserted into the first and second lumens of the distal portion of the catheter tube; and

connecting the distal portion of the connection cover to the proximal portion of the hub body by turning the connection cover so that the threaded portion of the connection cover engages the threaded portion of the hub body, such that the catheter tube is securely attached to the hub body.

9. (Amended) A method for inserting a multi-lumen catheter assembly into an area to be catheterized, wherein the multi-lumen catheter assembly is comprised of (a) a multi-lumen catheter tube with a distal portion and a proximal portion, the catheter tube having at least a first lumen and a second lumen, (b) an attachable hub assembly, the hub assembly having a (i) a hub body with a distal portion and a proximal portion, the hub body being formed about a first cannula and a second cannula, each of the cannula having a proximal portion and a distal portion, (ii) a connection cover having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the connection cover fitting axially about the distal portion of the catheter tube, and (iii) a compression sleeve, the compression sleeve fitting axially about the distal portion of the catheter tube and the proximal portions of the first and second cannulae, the first lumen and the first cannula each having a first indicator associated therewith, and the second lumen and the second cannula each having a second indicator associated therewith, the method comprising the steps of:

making an incision near the area to be catheterized;

inserting the proximal portion of the multi-lumen catheter tube into the area to be catheterized;

creating a subcutaneous tunnel having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the subcutaneous tunnel is near the incision near the area to be catheterized;

routing the distal portion of the catheter tube through the subcutaneous tunnel beginning at the first end and exiting through the second end of the subcutaneous tunnel; attaching the proximal portion of the hub body to the distal portion of the catheter tube,

wherein the step of attaching the hub body to the catheter tube is further comprised of the steps of:

backfitting the connection cover over the distal portion of the catheter tube;

backfitting the compression sleeve over the distal portion of the catheter tube;

matching the first indicator associated with the first lumen with the first indicator associated with the first cannula, and inserting the proximal portion of the first cannula into the first lumen of the distal portion of the catheter tube, to

create fluid communication between the first cannula and the first lumen; and
matching the second indicator associated with the second lumen with the
second indicator associated with the second cannula, and inserting the proximal
portion of the second cannula into the second lumen of the distal portion of the
catheter tube, to create fluid communication between the second cannula and the
second lumen;

compressing the connection between the first and second cannulae and the
first and second lumens of the catheter tube by sliding the compression sleeve
over the proximal portion of the first and second cannulae that have been inserted
into the first and second lumens of the distal portion of the catheter tube; and
connecting the distal portion of the connection cover to the proximal portion of
the hub body, such that the catheter tube is securely attached to the hub body.

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10. (Amended) A method for inserting a multi-lumen catheter assembly into an
area to be catheterized, wherein the multi-lumen catheter assembly is comprised of (a) a multi-
lumen catheter tube with a distal portion and a proximal portion, the catheter tube having a at
least a first lumen and a second lumen, (b) an attachable hub assembly, the hub assembly having
a (i) a hub body with a distal portion and a proximal portion, the proximal portion of the hub
body being externally threaded, the hub body being formed about a first cannula and a second
cannula, each of the cannula having a proximal portion and a distal portion, (ii) a connection
cover having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the connection cover fitting axially about
the distal portion of the catheter tube, the distal portion of the connection cover being internally
threaded, the first lumen and the first cannula each having a first indicator associated therewith,
and the second lumen and the second cannula each having a second indicator associated
therewith, the method comprising the steps of:

making an incision near the area to be catheterized;

inserting the proximal portion of the multi-lumen catheter tube into the area to be
catheterized;

creating a subcutaneous tunnel having a first end and a second end, wherein the

first end of the subcutaneous tunnel is near the incision near the area to be catheterized;
routing the distal portion of the catheter tube through the subcutaneous tunnel
beginning at the first end and exiting through the second end of the subcutaneous tunnel;
attaching the proximal portion of the hub body to the distal portion of the catheter
tube,
wherein the step of attaching the hub body to the catheter tube is further
comprised of the steps of:

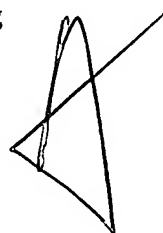
backfitting the connection cover over the distal portion of the catheter
tube;

matching the first indicator associated with the first lumen with the first
indicator associated with the first cannula, and inserting the proximal portion of
the first cannula into the first lumen of the distal portion of the catheter tube, to
create fluid communication between the first cannula and the first lumen; and

matching the second indicator associated with the second lumen with the
second indicator associated with the second cannula, and inserting the proximal
portion of the second cannula into the second lumen of the distal portion of the
catheter tube, to create fluid communication between the second cannula and the
second lumen;

connecting the distal portion of the connection cover to the proximal portion of
the hub body by turning the connection cover so that the threaded portion of the
connection cover engages the threaded portion of the hub body, such that the catheter
tube is securely attached to the hub body.

12. (Amended) A method for inserting a multi-lumen catheter assembly into an
area to be catheterized, wherein the multi-lumen catheter assembly is comprised of (a) a multi-
lumen catheter tube with a distal portion and a proximal portion, the catheter tube having at least
a first lumen and a second lumen, (b) an attachable hub assembly, the hub assembly having a (i)
a hub body with a distal portion and a proximal portion, the proximal portion of the hub body
being externally threaded, the hub body being formed about a first cannula and a second cannula,
each of the cannula having a proximal portion and a distal portion, (ii) a connection cover having



a proximal portion and a distal portion, the connection cover fitting axially about the distal portion of the catheter tube, the distal portion of the connection cover being internally threaded, and (iii) a compression sleeve, the compression sleeve fitting axially about the distal portion of the catheter tube and the proximal portions of the first and second cannulae, the first lumen and the first cannula each having a first indicator associated therewith, and the second lumen and the second cannula each having a second indicator associated therewith, the method comprising the steps of:

making an incision near the area to be catheterized;

inserting the proximal portion of the multi-lumen catheter tube into the area to be catheterized;

creating a subcutaneous tunnel, wherein a first end of the subcutaneous tunnel is near the incision near the area to be catheterized;

routing the distal portion of the catheter tube through the subcutaneous tunnel beginning at the first end and exiting through a second end of the subcutaneous tunnel;

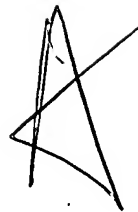
attaching the proximal portion of the hub body to the distal portion of the catheter tube, wherein the step of attaching the hub body to the catheter tube is further comprised of the steps of:

backfitting the connection cover over the distal portion of the catheter tube;

backfitting the compression sleeve over the distal portion of the catheter tube;

matching the first indicator associated with the first lumen with the first indicator associated with the first cannula, and inserting the proximal portion of the first cannula into the first lumen of the distal portion of the catheter tube, to create fluid communication between the first cannula and the first lumen; and

matching the second indicator associated with the second lumen with the second indicator associated with the second cannula, and inserting the proximal portion of the second cannula into the second lumen of the distal portion of the catheter tube, to create fluid communication between the second cannula and the second lumen;



25 compressing the connection between the first and second cannulae and the first and second lumens of the catheter tube by sliding the compression sleeve over the proximal portion of the first and second cannulae that have been inserted into the first and second lumens of the distal portion of the catheter tube; and connecting the distal portion of the connection cover to the proximal portion of the hub body by turning the connection cover so that the threaded portion of the connection cover engages the threaded portion of the hub body, such that the catheter tube is securely attached to the hub body.

14. (Amended) A method for inserting a multi-lumen catheter assembly into an area to be catheterized, the multi-lumen catheter assembly having (a) a multi-lumen catheter tube having a distal portion and a proximal portion, and (b) an attachable hub assembly having (i) a hub body with a distal portion and a proximal portion, the method comprising the steps of:

creating a subcutaneous tunnel having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the subcutaneous tunnel is near the area to be catheterized;

routing the distal portion of the catheter tube through the subcutaneous tunnel beginning at the first end and exiting through the second end of the subcutaneous tunnel;

making an incision near the area to be catheterized;

inserting the proximal portion of the multi-lumen catheter tube into the area to be catheterized; and

attaching the proximal portion of the hub body to the distal portion of the catheter tube.

15. (Amended) A method for inserting a multi-lumen catheter assembly into an area to be catheterized, the multi-lumen catheter assembly having (a) a multi-lumen catheter tube having a distal portion and a proximal portion, and (b) an attachable hub assembly having (i) a hub body with a distal portion and a proximal portion, the method comprising the steps of:

creating a subcutaneous tunnel having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the subcutaneous tunnel is near the area to be catheterized;

making an incision near the area to be catheterized;

routing the distal portion of the catheter tube through the subcutaneous tunnel